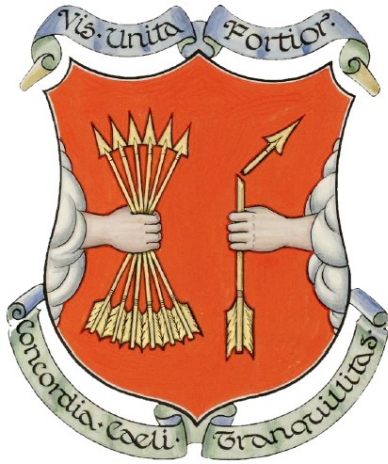


Practical Heraldry for the Self-Isolator

Week 6B– The Incorporated Trades cont

2. Aberdeen



The Convenor Court of the Seven Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen

Representing the Incorporations of Shoemakers, Wrights and Coopers, Fleshers, Weavers, Tailors, Bakers and Hammermen. Ancient arms used “anterior to the 1672 Act”.

Gules issuing from clouds in the dexter flank a dexter hand Proper grasping a sheaf of six arrows paleways, points upwards Or, and from the sinister flank a sinister hand also Proper grasping a broken arrow of the Last.

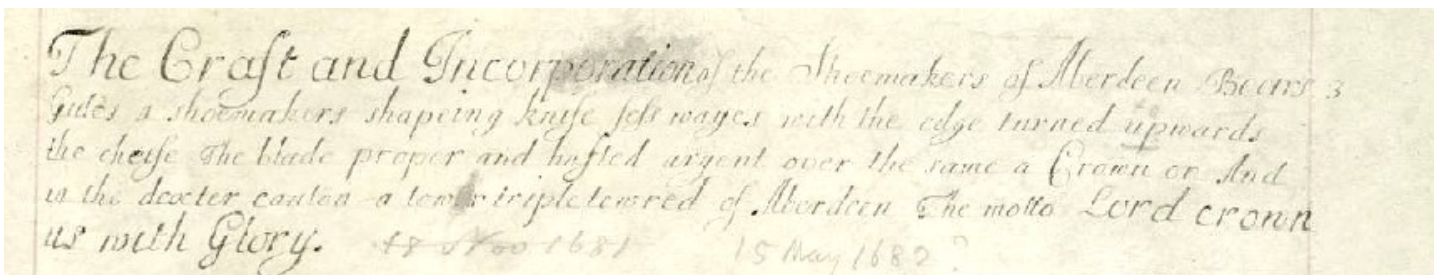
The arms illustrate the motto that strength comes from unity.

Granted: May 31st 1938

The Aberdeen Incorporations were very ahead of the game and all seven had legally recorded their arms within twenty years of the 1672 Act. They were the very first Incorporated Trades to record, some 240 years before Glasgow, and many other Incorporations indeed have still to do so, as we shall see. I am grateful to Gordon Casely FHSS for spotting some of the howlers in what follows. If there are more, it is the fault of the present writer.

Volume One of the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland lasted an astonishing 130+ years: less astonishing when you realise that it has very few illustrations of arms in it and is therefore able to cram up to a dozen entries per page.

Here are the seven entries for the Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen with a modern attempt to carry out the blazons:



Gules a shoemaker's shaping knife fess-ways with the edge turned towards the chief the blade proper and hafted Argent; over the same a Crown Or; and in the dexter canton a tower triple-towered of Aberdeen.

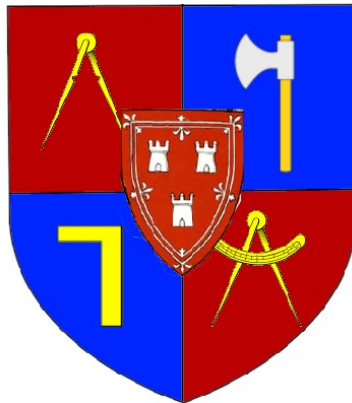
There are various images on the internet and in Aberdeen itself, of the Shoemakers' arms, which are much more ancient than the 17th century recording. Here is a very rough attempt following the blazon. Of course, there is still an omission: the blazon says that the triple-towered-tower is supposed to be in a *canton* or box. However no tincture is given for the canton (or indeed for the tower, although it is usually Argent) and it is not easy to see what it could be: there is a sensible reluctance in heraldry to put a metal on a metal or a colour on a colour for the sake of visibility. So if we assume the tower is Argent, as most of the “a tower of Aberdeen” blazons say, the canton really ought to be a colour. However, a colour on top of the Gules field would look awful. so there we are. No detail is given as to the crown so I have used a Marquess's crown as on the arms of the Glasgow Cordiners.



*The Craft & Incorporation of the Wrights & Coupers of Aberdeen 4
 Bear quarterly First gules a tower triple towered argent. Second gules a
 compass or. Third azure a square or, Fourth a wrights axe argent slassed or shafted
 The motto Our Redeemer liveth for ever. 15 May 1682*

The Craft & Incorporation of the Wrights and Coopers of Aberdeen

Quarterly: 1st Gules a tower triple-towered Argent; 2nd Gules a compass Or; 3rd: Azure a square Or; 4th ? A wright's axe Argent slassed Or. As the tincture of quarter 4 is not given, one can only guess at Azure for a symmetrical result.



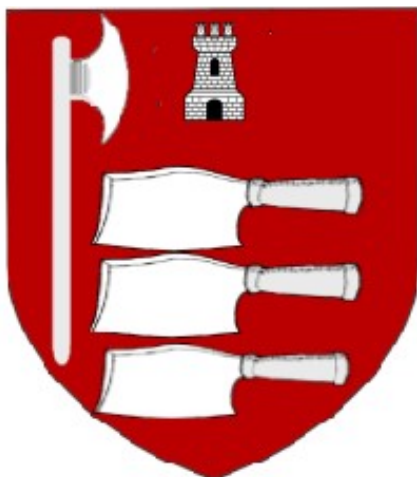
There is a tradition that a new grant was given in 1696:

Quarterly. First: Gules, a Wright's Compass or. Second: Azure, a Cooper's Axe argent. Third: Azure, a Square or. Fourth: Gules, a Cooper's Compass or. Over all, on at escutcheon, the Coat of the Royal Burgh of Aberdeen (Gules, three Towers triple-towered, within a double tressure flowered and counter-flowered argent).

*The Craft & Incorporation of the Fleshers or Butchers of Aberdeen 5
 Merdeen Bears Gules Three fleshers knives fess wayes in pale and in the
 dexter side ano axe pale wayes the edge towards the sinister all the blades
 proper and hafted argent, in the middle cheife a tower triple towered of Aberdeen
 The motto Virtute vovo. 15 May 1682*

The Craft & Incorporation of the Fleshers or Butchers of Aberdeen

Gules three fleshers' knives fessways in pale and in the dexter side an axe paleways the edge towards the sinister all the blades proper and hafted Argent, in the middle chief a tower triple-towered of Aberdeen.



It is difficult to interpret what type of axe is meant and my assumption has been that a "flesher's knife" is a cleaver but this may be wrong. Some of the representations in Aberdeen draw the knives more like table-knives.

6 The Craft and Incorporation of the weavers of Aberdeen Bears
 three Leopards heads erased argent having in their mouth a Weavers
 shuttle or, in the middle cheefe a tower of Aberdeen The motto Spero in Deo
 et ipse facit 15 May 1682

The Craft and Incorporation of the Weavers of Aberdeen

Azure three leopards' heads erased Argent having in their mouths a weaver's shuttle Or, in the middle chief a tower of Aberdeen.

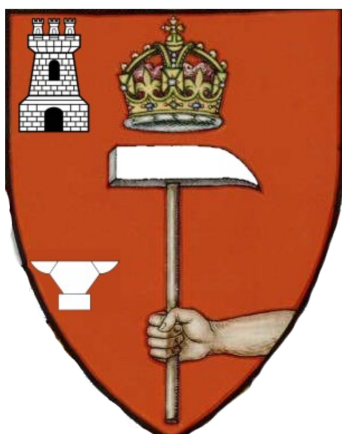


The leopard's head with the shuttle in its mouth is a feature of all Weavers' heraldry .

9 The Craft and Incorporation of the Hammermen of Aberdeen
 Bears gules a dexter arme issuing from the sinister flank fess wayes - the
 bearing a proper ^{smiths} hafted argent, and over it a crown or, In the dexter nombrill a
 Smiths anvil of the second and above the same in cheefe a tower of Aber-
 deen. The motto Finis coronat opus. 15 May 1682

The Craft & Incorporation of the Hammermen of Aberdeen

Gules a dexter arm issuing from the sinister flank fess-ways proper hafted Argent and over it a crown Or, in the dexter nombril point a smith's anvil of the Second and above the same in chief a tower of Aberdeen.

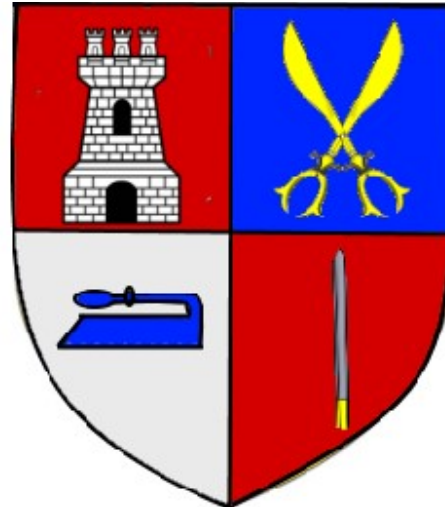


Again the crown is not specified.

7 The Craft and Incorporation of the Tailors of Aberdeen.
 Bears quarterly First gules a tower triple-towered argent, Second azur.
 a pair of Shizers or; Third argent a smoothing Iron azur, Fourth Gules a
 Tailors bodkin or boring iron proper, hafted or. The motto In God is
 our trust 15 May 1682

The Craft and Incorporation of the Tailors of Aberdeen

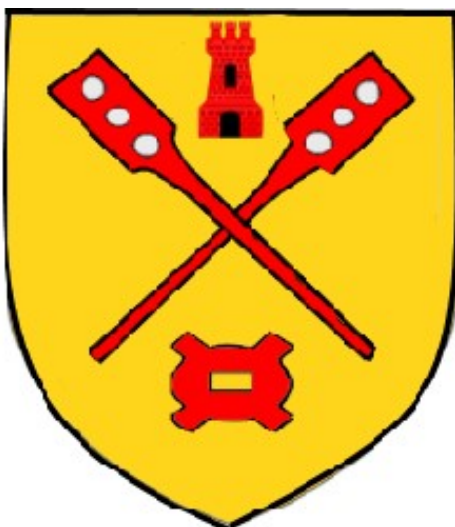
Quarterly: 1st. Gules a tower triple-towered Argent; 2nd Az-
 ure a pair of scissors Or; 3rd Argent a smoothing iron Azure;
 4th Gules a tailor's bodkin or boring iron Proper hafted Or.



8 The Craft and Incorporation of the Bakers of Aberdeen.
 Bears or two bakers pyles disposed in saltire gules each charged with
 three loaves in pale argent betwixt a Tower triple-towered in chief and a
 mill-rind in base of the Third. (15 May 1682) Florissant pistoris

The Craft and Incorporation of the Bakers of Aberdeen

Or two baker's peels disposed in saltire Gules each charged with three loaves in pale Argent betwixt a tower triple-towered in
 chief and millrind in base of the Third.



This is a very rough sketch. A complication is that the origi-
 nal grant entry peters out without specifying "of the Sec-
 ond" for the castle and mill-rind, in fact someone else
 seems to have added "of the Third" but silver on gold is un-
 likely.



